IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:	)
	)
Daniel V. Zilavy et al.	) Attorney Docket 200208005-1
	)
Serial No. 10/611,558	) Examiner: Isaac Tuku Tecklu
	)
Filing Date: July 1, 2003	) Group Art Unit: 2192
	)
	) Confirmation No. 2291
For: FIELD-REPLACEABLE UNIT	)
REVISION COMPATIBILITY	)

APPEAL BRIEF

To: Commissioner for Patents
     P.O. Box 1450
     Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of November 28, 2008, the applicants appeal follows:

This brief contains items under the following headings as required by 37 CFR §41.37 and MPEP §1206:

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holdings, LLC.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

With respect to other appeals or interferences that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal, there are no such appeals or interferences.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-29 and 42-66 are pending and were rejected. The rejections of claims 1-29 and 42-66 are appealed herein. Claims 30-41 have been cancelled.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments were filed or entered subsequent to the rejection mailed November 28, 2008.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The invention as claimed is summarized below with reference numerals and references to the specification and drawings. The invention is broadly set forth in the language corresponding to the below described claims. Discussions about elements of the invention can be found at least in the locations in the specification and drawings cited in the claims below.

Paragraph references are made to the paragraph on the page where the information is found, wherein a first paragraph on a page may not be a full paragraph.

CLAIM 1

In a computer system (600a) including a first field-programmable (602a) unit including first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU (602a) including first field-programmable code (604a), a second FPU (602b) of a second type including a second FPU code (602b), a computer-implemented method (100) comprising steps of [Page 9, Paragraph 6; Page 10, Paragraphs 5 and 6; Page 12, paragraph 3; Fig. 6]:

(A) determining (108) whether the first FPU (602a) and the first FPU code (604a) are compatible with the second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b) [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 10, paragraph 5; Page 13, paragraph 2 to page 14, paragraph 2; Page 14, paragraph 2; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1, 5 and 6]; and

(B) if the first FPU (602a) and the first FPU code (604a) are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b), notifying (110) a user of the computer system (600a) of the incompatibility. [Page 9, paragraph 6; Page 15, paragraph 3; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 6]

CLAIM 12

In a computer system (600a) including a first field-programmable unit FPU (602a) of a first type, the first FPU (602a) including first field-programmable unit code (604a), an apparatus comprising [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 10, Paragraphs 5 and 6; Page 12, paragraph 3; Fig. 6]:

determination means (108) for determining whether the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are compatible with a second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b), wherein the second FPU (602b) includes the second FPU code (604b), and wherein the second FPU (602b) is of a second type that differs from the first type, and wherein both the first FPU (602a) and the second FPU (602b) are connected to the computer system (600a) [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 13, paragraph 2 to page 14, paragraph 2; Page 14, paragraph 2; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1, 5, 6]; and

notification means (110) for notifying a user of the computer system (600a) that the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are not compatible with the second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b) if the determination means determines that the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are not compatible with the second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b). [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 15, paragraph 3; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 6]

CLAIM 18

A storage medium readable by a computer in a computer system (600a) including a first field-programmable unit (602a) of a first type, the first field-programmable unit (602a) including first field-programmable unit (FPU) code (604a), the storage medium tangibly embodying program instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps (100) of [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 10, Paragraphs 5 and 6; Page 12, paragraph 3; Fig. 6]:

(A) determining (108) whether the first FPU (602a) and the first FPU code (604a) are compatible with a second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b) the computer system, wherein the second FPU (602b) includes the second FPU code (604b), wherein the second FPU (602b) is of a second type that differs from the first type, and wherein both the first FPU (602a) and the second FPU (602b) are connected to the computer system (600a) [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 13, paragraph 2 to page 14, paragraph 2; Page 14, paragraph 2; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1, 5, and 6]; and

(B) if the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b), notifying a user of the computer system of the incompatibility. [Page 9, paragraphs 6; Page 15, paragraph 3; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 6]

CLAIM 24

A computer system (600a) comprising:

a first field-programmable unit (FPU) (602a) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code (604a) [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 10, Paragraphs 5 and 6; Page 12, paragraph 3; Fig. 6];

a second field-programmable unit (FPU) (602b) of a second type, the second FPU including second FPU code (604b), wherein both the first FPU (602a) and the second FPU (602b) are connected to the computer system (600a); [Page 9, Paragraph

6; Page 10, paragraph 6; Page 12, paragraph 3; Page 10, Paragraph 5; Page 13, paragraph 2 to page 14, paragraph 2; Page 14, paragraph 2; Fig. 5]

a compatibility verifier (500, 610) coupled to the first FPU (602a) and operable to determine whether the first FPU (602a) and the first FPU code (604a) are compatible with the second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b) the computer system, and to notify a user of the computer system of the incompatibility if the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b). [Page 9, paragraphs 6; Page 15, paragraph 3; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1, 5, and 6]

CLAIM 42

A computer system (600a; Fig. 6) comprising:

a first field-programmable unit (FPU) (602a) comprising first FPU code (604a); [Page 9, Paragraps 6; Page 10, paragraphs 5 and 6; Page 12, paragraph 3; Fig. 6]

a second FPU (602b) comprising second FPU code (604b); [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 10, Paragraph 5; Page 12, paragraph 3; Fig. 6] and

a compatibility verifier (500, 610) coupled to the first FPU (602a), the compatibility verifier being operable to determine whether the first FPU code (604a) is different from the second FPU code (604b) and, if the first FPU code (604a) is determined to be different from the second FPU code (604b), to notify a user of the computer system that the first FPU code (604a) is incompatible with the computer system. [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 13, paragraph 2 to page 14, paragraph 2; Page 14, paragraph 2; Page 15, paragraph 3; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1, 5, and 6A]

CLAIM 45

In a computer system (600a) including a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code, a computer-implemented method (100) comprising steps of [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 10, Paragraph 5; Page 12, paragraph 3; Fig. 6]:

(A) determining (108) whether the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are compatible with a second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b) wherein both the first FPU (602a) and the second FPU (602b) are in the computer system (600a), wherein the second FPU (602b) includes the second FPU code (604b), and wherein the second FPU (602b) is of a second type that differs from the first type; [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 10, paragraphs 5 and 6; Page 13, paragraph 2 to page 14, paragraph 2; Page 14, paragraph 2; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1, 5, and 6A]

(B) if the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b), identifying (112) third FPU code (604c) that is compatible with the computer system (600a) and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit (602a); [Page 9, paragraph 6; Page 15, paragraph 3; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 6A] and

(C) installing (118) the third FPU code (604c) in the first field-programmable unit (602a). [Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 6A]

CLAIM 52

In a computer system (600a) including a first field-programmable unit (FPU) (602a) of a first type, the first FPU (602a) including first FPU code (604a), an apparatus comprising [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 10, paragraphs 5 and 6; Fig. 6]:

determination means (108, 610) for determining whether the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are compatible with a second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b), wherein both the first FPU (602a) and the second FPU (602b) are in the

computer system (600a), wherein the second FPU (602b) includes the second FPU code (604b), and wherein the second FPU (602b) is of a second type that differs from the first type; [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 12, paragraph 3; Page 13, paragraph 2 to page 14, paragraph 2; Page 14, paragraph 2; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 5]

      identification means (112) for identifying third FPU code (604c) that is compatible with the computer system (600a) and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit (602a) if the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b); [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 6A] and

      installation means (118, 618) for installing the third FPU code (604c) in the first field-programmable unit (602a). [Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 6A]

CLAIM 57

      A storage medium readable by a computer in a computer system (600a) including a first field-programmable unit (FPU) (602a) of a first type, the first FPU (602a) including first FPU code (604a), the storage medium tangibly embodying program instructions (100) executable by the computer to perform method steps of [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 10, paragraphs 5 and 6; Page 12, paragraph 3; Fig. 6]:

      (A) determining (118) whether the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are compatible with a second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b), wherein both the first FPU (602a) and the second FPU (602b) are in the computer system (600a), wherein the second FPU (602b) includes the second FPU code (604b), and wherein the second FPU (602b) is of a second type that differs from the first type; [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 13, paragraph 2 to page 14, paragraph 2; Page 14, paragraph 2; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 5]

      (B) if the first FPU code (604a) is determined not to be compatible with the computer system (600a), identifying third FPU code (604c) (112) that is compatible with

the computer system and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit (602a); [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Fig. 1] and

(C) installing (118) the third FPU code (604c) in the first field-programmable unit (602a). [Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 6A]

CLAIM 62

A computer system (600a) comprising:

a first field-programmable unit (FPU) (602a) of a first type, the first FPU (602a) including first FPU code (604a); [Page 9, Paragraphs 6]

a compatibility verifier (610) coupled to the first FPU (602a) and operable to determine whether the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (602a) are compatible with a second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b), wherein both the first FPU (602a) and the second FPU (602b) are connected to the computer system, and, if the first FPU (602a) and first FPU code (604a) are determined (108) not to be compatible with the second FPU (602b) and second FPU code (604b), to identify (112) third FPU code (604c) that is compatible with the computer system and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit (602a); [Page 9, Paragraphs 6; Page 10, paragraph 6; Page 13, paragraph 2 to page 14, paragraph 2; Page 14, paragraph 2; Page 15, paragraph 4 to page 16, paragraph 2; Figs. 1, 5, and 6A] and

a code installer (118, 618) coupled to the first FPU (602a) and operable to install the third FPU code (604c) in the first field-programmable unit (602a). [Page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2; Figs. 1 and 6A]

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellants request that all rejections be reviewed. The grounds of rejections are as follows:

Claims 1-29 and 42-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sprecher (U.S. 6,948,059).

VII. Argument

Claims 1-29 and 44-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sprecher (U.S. 6,948,059).

CLAIM 1

Claim 1 is independent and recites the following:

> In a computer system including a first field-programmable unit including first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first field-programmable code, a second FPU of a second type including a second FPU code, a computer-implemented method comprising steps of:
>
> (A) determining whether the first FPU and the first FPU code are compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code; and
>
> (B) if the first FPU and the first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code, notifying a user of the computer system of the incompatibility.

Summary of Argument

   - The office action states that Sprecher discloses checking compatibility of field replaceable units.

   - The appellant contends that Sprecher discloses checking compatibility for a replaced unit with the previously installed unit. Claim 1, on the other hand, is directed to checking compatibility of a field replaceable unit with other units presently installed in a computer system.

Detailed Argument

   Claim 1 and all the other independent claims include at least a first field programable unit (FPU) and a second FPU in a computer system. The applicant notes that a field programable unit is a physical device, not software or the like. Reference is made to the paragraph between pages 10 and 11 in the application where the FPUs are described as being installed in slots in the computer. Thus, the FPUs are physical devices installed into the computer.

   Some of the FPUs in the independent claims have FPU code loaded into them. Claim 1 determines if the FPUs and their corresponding code are compatible with one another. Therefore, a determination is made if the first FPU and its FPU code is compatible with the second FPU and it FPU code wherein both FPUs are installed in the computer.

   Claim 1 and the other independent claims differ significantly from Sprecher. Sprecher discloses replacing a device and determining whether the device and/or its resources or software are compatible with previous versions of the replaced resources. For example, after a component is replaced, Sprecher determines which resource version is in the new device and compares it to the resource version of the old device, which is no longer in the computer. Accordingly, there is only one device or FPU in the

computer of Sprecher. Thus, Sprecher does not compare one FPU to another to a second FPU, wherein both are in a computer system.

The office action cites three sections of Sprecher in the rejection. As shown below, the applicant contends that these sections of Sprecher disclose comparing compatibility of different resource versions of a replaced unit. These sections do not compare FPUs and their associated code to one another, wherein the FPUs are in a computer.

The first cited section of Sprecher is column 3, lines 40-50. This section of Sprecher relates to upward compatibility of software. For example, if an older version of software is upgraded, this section of Sprecher describes a process to make sure that the new version supports the requirements of the older version. There is no mention of comparing any field programable units to other field programable units that are within the computer. Likewise, there is no mention of comparing software on a first field programable unit with software on a second field programable unit, wherein both are installed in the computer system.

This section of Sprecher discusses resources. The applicant notes that resources are software. Reference is made to column 1, lines 37-45, which defines resources as including executables, drivers and linkable libraries that are required by a component. Thus, resources are not physical field programable units as recited in claim 1.

The second section of Sprecher that is cited in the office action is column 5, lines 1-65. Again, this section of Sprecher solely relates to upward compatibility of software resources and refers to new components. Thus, when a component is replaced, a compatibility of the software on the component is checked with compatibility of previous software versions. This section does not compare one FPU installed in a computer to another FPU installed in the computer as recited in claim 1.

The third section of Sprecher that is referenced in the office action is column 8, lines 1-10. This section determines whether a resource is enrolled with the operating

system. Thus, this section compares a resource to resources enrolled with the operating system (software) and not code on different FPUs.

Based on the foregoing, none of the cited sections of Sprecher disclose "determining whether the first FPU and the first FPU code are compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code" as claimed in claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, Sprecher cannot disclose all the elements of claim 1 and cannot anticipate claim 1. Therefore, the appellant requests that the rejection of claim 1 be reversed.

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS

All of the independent claims recite both a first FPU and a second FPU connected to the computer system. Rather than reiterate all of the independent claims, the applicant incorporates the traversal of claim 1 into the traversal of the rejections of all the independent claims. More specifically, Sprecher only discloses checking software versions of a replaced component.

Based on the foregoing, the Sprecher does not disclose all the elements of the independent claims and cannot anticipate the independent claims. Therefore, the appellant requests that the rejections be reversed.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

All of the dependent claims depend from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims are deemed allowable by way of their dependence and for other reasons.

Respectfully submitted,
KLAAS, LAW, O'MEARA & MALKIN, P.C.

By: /Robert W. Nelson/
       Robert W. Nelson
       Registration No. 37,898
       1999 Broadway, Suite 2225
       Denver, CO 80202
       (303) 298-9888
       Fax: (303) 297-2266

Appendix A   Claims Appendix

1. (Previously presented) In a computer system including a first field-programmable unit including first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first field-programmable code, a second FPU of a second type including a second FPU code, a computer-implemented method comprising steps of:

       (A) determining whether the first FPU and the first FPU code are compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code; and

       (B) if the first FPU and the first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code, notifying a user of the computer system of the incompatibility.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of:

       (A)(1) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with at least one of the plurality of FPU codes.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) further comprises a step of:

       (A)(2) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the computer system further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes, and wherein the step (A)(1) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality

of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first field-programmable unit comprises a field-replaceable unit.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (A) is performed in response to installation of the first field-programmable unit in the computer system.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (B) comprises a step of:
     (B)(1) providing the user with information descriptive of third FPU code that is suitable for storage in the first field-programmable unit and that is compatible with the second FPU code.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step (A) is performed in response to replacement of a third field-programmable unit with the first field-programmable unit, and wherein the third field-programmable unit includes the third FPU code.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, and wherein the step (B)(1) comprises steps of:

(B)(1)(a) identifying a compatible combination of field-programmable unit codes previously installed in the computer system;

(B)(1)(b) identifying, in the identified combination of previously-installed field-programmable unit codes, an identifier of FPU code suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit; and

(B)(1)(c) providing the user with information descriptive of the FPU code identified by the identifier.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of FPUs including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of combinations of compatible field-programmable unit codes, and wherein the step (B)(1) comprises steps of:

(B)(1)(a) identifying, in the revision compatibility descriptor, a record describing the plurality of FPU codes;

(B)(1)(b) identifying, in the identified record, a code identifier identifying FPU code suitable for use in the first field-programmable unit; and

(B)(1)(c) providing the user with information descriptive of the FPU code identified by the code identifier.

12. (Previously presented) In a computer system including a first field-programmable unit FPU of a first type, the first FPU including first field-programmable unit code, an apparatus comprising:

determination means for determining whether the first FPU and first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code, wherein the second FPU includes the second FPU code, and wherein the second FPU is of a second type that differs from the first type, and wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are connected to the computer system; and

notification means for notifying a user of the computer system that the first FPU and first FPU code are not compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code if the determination means determines that the first FPU and first FPU code are not compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the determination means comprises:

means for determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the determination means further comprises:

means for determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes, and wherein the determination means comprises means for determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, wherein the apparatus further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the

determination means comprises means for determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the notification means comprises means for providing the user with information descriptive of third FPU code that is suitable for storage in the first field-programmable unit and that is compatible with the second FPU code.

18. (Previously presented) A storage medium readable by a computer in a computer system including a first field-programmable unit of a first type, the first field-programmable unit including first field-programmable unit (FPU) code, the storage medium tangibly embodying program instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps of:

(A) determining whether the first FPU and the first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code the computer system, wherein the second FPU includes the second FPU code, wherein the second FPU is of a second type that differs from the first type, and wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are connected to the computer system; and

(B) if the first FPU and first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code, notifying a user of the computer system of the incompatibility.

19. (Original) The storage medium of claim 18, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of:

(A)(1) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

20. (Original) The storage medium of claim 19, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) further comprises a step of:

(A)(2) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

21. (Original) The storage medium of claim 19, wherein the computer system further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes, and wherein the step (A)(1) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

22. (Original) The storage medium of claim 19, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

23. (Original) The storage medium of claim 18, wherein the first field-programmable unit comprises a field-replaceable unit.

24. (Previously presented) A computer system comprising:

a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code;

a second field-programmable unit (FPU) of a second type, the second FPU including second FPU code, wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are connected to the computer system;

a compatibility verifier coupled to the first FPU and operable to determine whether the first FPU and the first FPU code are compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code the computer system, and to notify a user of the computer system of the incompatibility if the first FPU and first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code.

25. (Original) The computer system of claim 24, further comprising a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the compatibility verifier is further operable to determine whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

26. (Original) The computer system of claim 25, further comprising a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the compatibility verifier is further operable to determine whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

27. (Original) The computer system of claim 25, further comprising a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

28. (Original) The computer system of claim 25, further comprising a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

29. (Original) The computer system of claim 24, wherein the first field-programmable unit comprises a field-replaceable unit.

30-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) A computer system comprising:
     a first field-programmable unit (FPU) comprising first FPU code;
     a second FPU comprising second FPU code; and
     a compatibility verifier coupled to the first FPU, the compatibility verifier being operable to determine whether the first FPU code is different from the second FPU code and, if the first FPU code is determined to be different from the second FPU code, to notify a user of the computer system that the first FPU code is incompatible with the computer system.

43. (Original) The computer system of claim 42, wherein the first FPU comprises a field-replaceable unit.

44. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 42, wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to provide the user with information descriptive of third FPU code

that is suitable for storage in the first FPU and that is compatible with the computer system.

45. (Previously presented) In a computer system including a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code, a computer-implemented method comprising steps of:

(A) determining whether the first FPU and first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are in the computer system, wherein the second FPU includes the second FPU code, and wherein the second FPU is of a second type that differs from the first type;

(B) if the first FPU and first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code, identifying third FPU code that is compatible with the computer system and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit; and

(C) installing the third FPU code in the first field-programmable unit.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of:

(A)(1) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) further comprises a step of:

(A)(2) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

48. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the computer system further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A)(1) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of FPU identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

49. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of FPU codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

50. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the first field-programmable unit comprises a field-replaceable unit.

51. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the step (A) is performed in response to installation of the first field-programmable unit in the computer system.

52. (Previously presented) In a computer system including a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code, an apparatus comprising:

      determination means for determining whether the first FPU and first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code, wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are in the computer system, wherein the second FPU includes the

second FPU code, and wherein the second FPU is of a second type that differs from the first type;

identification means for identifying third FPU code that is compatible with the computer system and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit if the first FPU and first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code; and

installation means for installing the third FPU code in the first field-programmable unit.

53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the determination means comprises:

means for determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the determination means further comprises:

means for determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the computer system further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of FPU codes, and wherein the determination means comprises means for determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of FPU identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the determination means comprises means for determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of FPU codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

57. (Previously presented) A storage medium readable by a computer in a computer system including a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code, the storage medium tangibly embodying program instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps of:

      (A) determining whether the first FPU and first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU, wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are in the computer system, wherein the second FPU includes the second FPU code, and wherein the second FPU is of a second type that differs from the first type;

      (B) if the first FPU code is determined not to be compatible with the computer system, identifying third FPU code that is compatible with the computer system and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit; and

      (C) installing the third FPU code in the first field-programmable unit.

58. (Original) The storage medium of claim 57, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of:

      (A)(1) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

59. (Original) The storage medium of claim 58, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) further comprises a step of:

(A)(2) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

60. (Original) The storage medium of claim 58, wherein the computer system further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A)(1) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of FPU identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

61. (Original) The storage medium of claim 58, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of FPU codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

62. (Previously presented) A computer system comprising:

a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code;

a compatibility verifier coupled to the first FPU and operable to determine whether the first FPU and first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code, wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are connected to the computer system, and, if the first FPU and first FPU code are determined not to be

compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code, to identify third FPU code that is compatible with the computer system and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit; and

a code installer coupled to the first FPU and operable to install the third FPU code in the first field-programmable unit.

63. (Original) The computer system of claim 62, further comprising a plurality of FPUs including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

64. (Original) The computer system of claim 63, further comprising a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

65. (Original) The computer system of claim 63, further comprising a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of FPU codes, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of FPU identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

66. (Original) The computer system of claim 63, further comprising a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of

combination combinations of FPU codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

Appendix B   Evidence Appendix

None

Appendix C   Related Proceedings Appendix

None